

No contest!

Vets see off youth challenge

THERE was no place for youth at the 1990 Army orienteering championship as WO1 Colin Dickson, Capt John Dowty, Capt Gabi Bushell WRAC and Lt Col Nick Fickling carried off the main prizes.

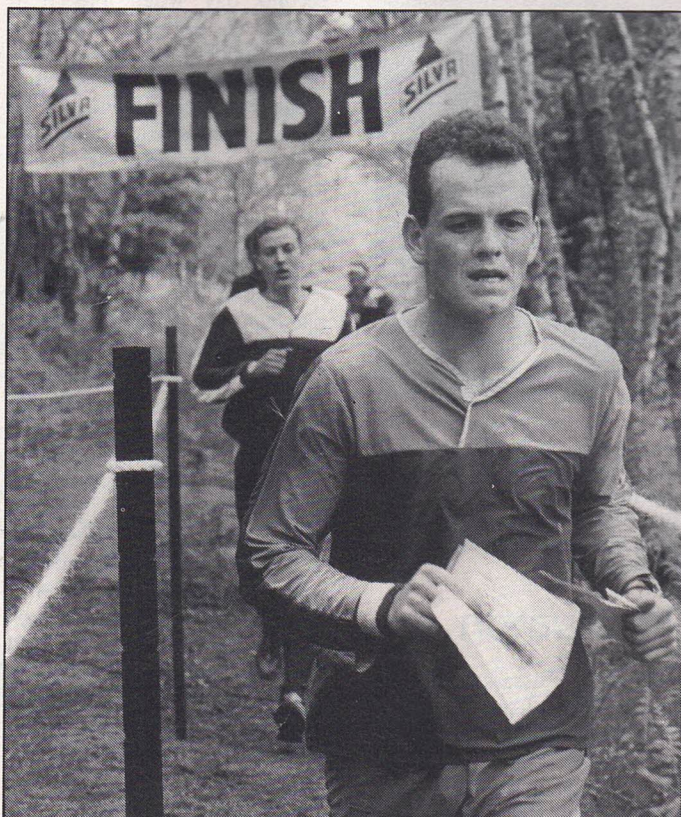
After two days of team competition the Army individual prize was always going to be contested by the fitter men, but this year the 11km run at Woolmer looked more open than ever with any one of half a dozen runners capable of winning.

For the first hour of finishers WO2 Mike Goode led with 75 mins - two minutes clear of Royal Marine Maj John Rye. Many other fancied contenders came in with times over 80 minutes and Goode looked safe until 1989 champion Maj Glen Grant ran 73:46 to take the lead.

Three runners then came in together and WO1 Colin Dickson punched the air ecstatically as he heard he had won his first Army title by just 21 seconds from Grant.

TA champion Capt John Dowty and BAOR champion Capt Charles Bromley-Gardiner ran 77 and 75 minutes to leave Grant and Goode to pick up second and third.

There was no such contest in the women's race as Capt Gabi Bushell added to her second place in the UKLF with an easy win from OCdt Fryer of Northumbrian UOTC, a novice, who has been the



Maj Roger Dickey RA (front) and Maj Alan Farrington RAPC finish in the Army orienteering championships
LCPL BRARLEY QOH

brightest find for many years.

Two days of team competition combined with the UKLF and TA championships saw a runaway win for 42 Svy Engr Regt led by surprise UKLF winner Nick Fickling. 7 Para RHA captured the runners-up slot, but the other fancied gunner teams all produced bad runs.

The TA trophy went to the brightly clad A Company 6/7 Queens who were coached by WO2 Bob Webb, himself an Army orienteer and coach of long standing.

Despite the successes there are serious weaknesses in Army orienteering that were masked by the addition of TA runners.

There were few Army girls and although the juniors were again dominated by the REME from Arborfield few runners from previous years were in evidence. Most seriously, the men's result saw four runners over 35 in the first seven with no youngsters within 20 minutes of the winner.

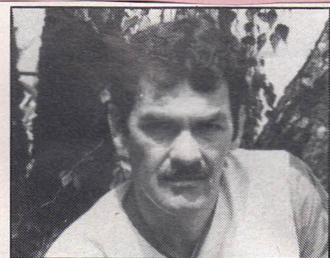
Territorial Army

UOTC woman - OCdt Fryer, Northumbrian UOTC; Woman individual - Capt Birtwistle, Kings Own Border; Women's team - 41 Sig Sqn (V); UOTC male - Capt Barker, London UOTC; TA male - Capt Dowty, 202 Fd Bty RA (V); Kings Own Border Cup to TA team winners - A Coy 6/7 Queens.

UKLF

WOMEN, Over 35 - WO1 Sykes Comms & Sy Gp UK; UKLF champion - Capt Davidson, MoD; Women's unit champions - Benbecula WRAC.

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Capt Pete Adams (above) of 23 Engr Regt won the Over 40 category at the BAOR orienteering championships held at Istrup near Detmold. He is the current BAOR veteran cross country champion

MEN, Over 17 - AT Smart, PMC Arborfield; Over 19 - AT Kelly-Smith, PMC Arborfield; Over 35 - Sgt Hawkins, PMC Arborfield; Over 40 - WO2 Stoddart, 7 RHA; Over 45 - Maj Parfitt, RSA; Over 50 - Brig Wood, MoD; UKLF champion - Lt Col Fickling, 42 Svy Engr Regt RE; Minor Units champions - RAPC Worthy Down; Major Units champions - 42 Svy Engr Regt RE.

Army

WOMEN, Over 35 - WO1 Rosewell, ASPT; Over 19 - Pte Higgins, 29 Coy WRAC; Army champion - Capt Bushell, R&LS WDIST; Women's team champions - 13 Sig Regt (BAOR).

MEN, Over 17 - AT Chapman, PMC Arborfield; Over 19 - Cfn Hall, 49 Fd Regt RA; Over 35 - CSgt Bonnet, 1 R Anglian; Over 40 - Capt Turner, HQ Colchester Gar; Over 45 - Lt Col Titterington, Sch of Sigs.

Over 50 - Maj Drummond, 50 Msls Regt RA; Army Champions - 1, WO1 Dickinson, Sch of Inf; 2, Maj Grant, HQ UKLF; 3, WO2 Goode, 94 Loc Regt RA; Minor Units champions - RAPC Worthy Down (UK); Major Units champions - 42 Svy Engr Regt RE (UK).